
**COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**August 30, 2007
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Community, Economic & Human Development Committee held its meeting at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.

Members Present

Barnes, Christine	City of La Palma
Coerper, Gil	City of Huntington Beach
Edney, Jon (Chair)	City of El Centro/IVAG
Garcia, Joe G.	SGVCOG
Jasper, Timothy	City of Apple Valley
Lantz, Paula	City of Pomona
Loveridge, Ronald	City of Riverside
Malsin, Scott	Westside Cities COG
McCallon, Larry (Vice-Chair)	City of Highland
McCullough, Kathryn	OCCOG
Mosca, Joseph	SGVCOG
Norby, Chris	Orange County
Nowatka, Paul	City of Torrance
Nunez, John H.	SGVCOG
Olhasso, Laura	Arroyo Verdugo
Ring, Bob	OCCOG
Robertson, Deborah	City of Rialto

Members Not Present

Chastain, Kelly	SANBAG
Bayer, Anne	Gateway Cities
Fesmire, Melanie	CVAG
Daigle, Leslie	OCCOG
Dubois, Diana	Gateway Cities
Jeffra, Jim	Lancaster
Lee, Laura	Gateway Cities
McSweeney, Susan	City of Westlake

Members Not Present (Continued)

Morehouse, Carl	Ventura/VCOG
Palmer, Jim	OCCOG
Perry, Jan	Los Angeles
Reyes, Ed	Los Angeles
Serrano, Joseph	Gateway Cities
White, Charles	WRCOG

1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Hon. Jon Edney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. The Committee members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Hon. Edney requested comments from the public. Ms. Tracy Sato, Orange County Council of Governments, presented a letter addressed to Chair Jon Edney, dated August 29, 2007, and signed by Dennis R. Wilberg, OCCOG Interim Executive Director. As a result of OCCOG's Board of Directors meeting held on August 23, 2007, the letter was prepared and presented to SCAG's Regional Council and all policy committees, to request that the PEIR for the Regional Comprehensive Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan be separated so that each document will receive its own PEIR. Ms. Sato emphasized the importance of these two documents to the organization and to the local jurisdictions and requested that both documents be given a full and comprehensive review by the public and corporate agencies.

Ms. Lynn Harris, Manager of Community Development for SCAG, read into the record a facsimile received from the City of Lake Forest, dated August 22, 2007, and addressed to Ms. Harris. The facsimile cover communication was signed by Benjamin Siegel, Assistant to the City Manager, and attached was a letter dated July 25, 2007 addressed to Jessica Kirchner, Associate Environmental Planner for SCAG and signed by Richard T. Dixon, the Mayor of Lake Forest. Mayor Dixon's letter requests, on behalf of the Lake Forest City Council, that the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) remain a voluntary initiative and that the voluntary nature of the RCP be clearly stated in the PEIR document.

Ms. Joann Africa, Interim Chief Counsel for SCAG, indicated that SCAG staff would recommend, because the PEIR is within the authority of EEC's review, that CEHD request that EEC agendaize, for their next meeting, the requests presented by OCCOG and the City of Lake Forest. Hon. Edney agreed that these items are under the purview and authority of EEC to make a recommendation to the Regional Council, and directed staff to inform EEC that CEHD has requested that it review the matter.

3.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no reprioritizations of the agenda.

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

Hon. Ron Loveridge requested a more formal response to item 4.2.3 and requested that SCAG Planning Staff prepare and send an article relating to Transit Oriented Development (TOD) to the Los Angeles Times. The Chair indicated this was the request of the Committee and so ordered such a letter be sent and copied to the Committee.

The Chair thanked staff for their continuing efforts to improve the State and Federal Matrix.

Hon. McCullough requested that item 4.2.1 be pulled for discussion. A **MOTION** was made by Hon. McCullough to pull item 4.2.1 in order to address concerns regarding SB 375. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Hon. Deborah Robertson and **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**.

Hasan Ikhrata, Director of Planning & Policy for SCAG, reported that the Regional Council took no position on SB 375, and there has been no change to their position.

Hon. McCullough stated that SB 375 is a very serious bill, which could result in significant ramifications for SCAG. Hon. Loveridge agreed and stated that SB 375 should be this Committee's main focus for next year. Hon. Edney requested that SCAG staff give a synopsis of SB 375.

Jeff Dunn, Government Affairs Analyst for SCAG, stated that initially SB 375 was introduced to streamline the CEQA process. Based on that, the bill was consistent with policies that SCAG had adopted previously. Consequently, SCAG took a support position on the bill earlier this year. Mr. Dunn further stated that the bill was amended numerous times through the legislative process and became a very different bill. Mr. Dunn indicated that among these changes, perhaps the most objectionable provision is the inclusion of a preferred growth scenario requirement that many cities and local government jurisdictions have expressed concerns about because it may significantly affect local land use authority. Because of these issues, SCAG formally took no position on the bill in July 2007 and advised the author of its concerns.

The Chair welcomed Joe Garcia, representing SGVCOG, to the Committee. Hon. Garcia stated that as Chair of the League of California Cities Housing Community and Economic Development Committee, he is delighted that SCAG is not supporting this bill and agreed that the bill should be carefully monitored.

Ms. Africa stated for clarification that the preferred growth scenario would be developed not only with the MPOs, but also with the CTCs. Cities who want to follow that preferred growth scenario would adopt it as part of their General Plan, and then use the streamlined CEQA process. Ms. Africa explained that in SB 375, as currently written, the scenario is not being forced on the cities, but is voluntary.

The Chair noted this was a two-year bill and requested SCAG staff to agendize SB 375 for a more complete briefing and discussion for the Committee in the near future.

The Chair requested a motion for approval of the Consent Calendar. Hon. Chris Norby made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the Consent Calendar. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by the Hon. Bob Ring and **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**.

5.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Proposition 1C – Housing Bond Implementation Status

Leeor Alpern, Government Affairs Analyst for SCAG, presented an update on Proposition 1C, the Housing Bond Legislation Implementation. Mr. Alpern stated that SCAG Legislative Affairs and Housing staff coordinated with SCAG's lobbyist to ensure that SCAG issues regarding the previous bills AB 1053, SB 46 and SB 86 were addressed. Mr. Alpern indicated SB 86 incorporates a better integration of planning work at the regional level with funding awards at the local level. Mr. Alpern stated that SB 86 is now law and contains language that is sufficient to meet SCAG's needs.

Hon. Paula Lantz expressed concern that SCAG staff lobbied to ensure that language was in this bill to require jurisdictions to go along with the Compass 2% plan and this definitely takes away choice from these jurisdictions.

Ms. Harris explained that it is SCAG's intent to increase opportunities for the cities to be eligible to apply for the bond money and bring more of this money into Southern California. Ms. Harris further explained that the original legislation required cities to have a compliant General Plan, and a recent report published by the State OPR shows that a significant number of our cities do not have a compliant General Plan. Cities that have transportation infrastructure or cities that would desire to take advantage of the TOD funds and be competitive for the bond money would not have been eligible to even make an application because they would not have had the proper planning around a station or future station. Those cities are now eligible to make an application, where they would not have been in the previous draft of the bill.

Hon. Edney stated that in regard to the concerns expressed by Hon. Lantz, it is the purpose of this Committee to monitor the language of a bill as it progresses through the legislative process to make certain that the Committee's principles and policies are properly addressed. Hon. Edney further stated that it may be necessary to refine the process to ensure that the language in a prospective bill represents what the policy committees and the Regional Council have passed.

Mr. Ikhrata stated that he supports more involvement from the Committees. He further stated that a process needs to be established where the Committees have more input in the decision making.

Hon. Coerper stated that it is not an effective use of the Committee's time to read every word of a bill. He further stated that the Committee should rely on staff to provide the Committee with proper feedback and information on an imminent bill.

Hon. Coerper encouraged the Committee to contact staff when they have concerns and get the issues resolved quickly.

5.2 RTP Growth Forecasts: Land Use Scenarios and Policy Implications

Stephen Levy, Center for Continuing Study of California Economy, presented an analysis of the policy implications of the regional economic and demographic growth forecast. Mr. Levy presented regional trends and pertinent facts about the economic health of the region. His presentation precedes the discussion of land use policy alternatives and implications led by John Fregonese. The two presentations are joined together to explore how these demographic changes affect the region's policies for land use and housing. Mr. Levy provided a glance at the region's economy, which explores the policy implications of achieving economic prosperity that offers broad opportunities for all residents to achieve a rising standard of living. Mr. Levy provided a snapshot of the economic base for key industries, looking at the work force and policies that are likely to be implemented. Mr. Levy pointed out that approximately 3 million baby boomers will retire in the next year and it will be a problem finding enough highly skilled, college graduates to replace these workers. Most of these jobs will be filled with immigrants and children of immigrants. He further emphasized that every new job and every added job in the future, will come from replacements.

5.3 Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Goals and Outcomes for Land Use & Housing and Economy

The Chair requested that this item be continued to the next meeting. The Committee requested information regarding the handling of education and health in the RCP.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Policy Development

John Fregonese of Fregonese Associates presented a slide presentation outlining the five driving forces of the RTP: 1) Financial Constraints/RTP Mandate; 2) Air-Quality Mandates; 3) Accommodate Population Growth and Provide Housing; 4) CEQA Process-Environmental Protection; 5) AB 32 and Global Warming. Mr. Fregonese pointed out that there are four previous policy directions that existed in the 2001 RTP that are being used as a foundation for moving forward: Mobility, Prosperity, Livability and Sustainability. Mr. Fregonese agreed with Mr. Levy that the major focus will be on manshift and the labor force. He pointed out that another big problem will be decreased accessibility and congestion, due to insufficient funds to build the necessary freeways. Mr. Fregonese stated that central and accessible locations and transit supported locations will become very desirable, which will have an impact on land use. Mr. Fregonese predicted that a great deal of infill will occur. Infill means more structured parking, higher density, and land use efficiency. Mr. Fregonese emphasized that financing continues to be a problem because with a financially constrained RTP, the needs greatly outweigh the funds. Mr. Fregonese emphasized the need to build a region

where people are less reliant on automobiles, a region where residents stay locally for shopping and entertainment. Mr. Fregonese stated that these are some of the initiatives that will be prominent going forward.

Hon. Edney stated that if we do not provide transportation that is efficient and customer friendly, it will never succeed. Hon. Edney also encouraged SCAG to take a much more prominent role. A **MOTION** was made by Hon. Scott Malsin to support the policies presented by Mr. Fregonese and direct staff to develop the 2008 RTP land use scenarios. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Hon. Kathryn McCullough and **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**.

7.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Hon. Edney promised the Committee that future meetings will not be rushed. He stated that he will take a more active role in creating the agenda. Hon. Edney further stated that he will request shorter PowerPoint presentations by encouraging presenters to show only three or four key slides. The entire presentation will continue to be included in the member packets.

8.0 STAFF REPORT

There was no staff report.

9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were noted or requested.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Edney adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

Minutes Approved By:


Lynn Harris, Manager
Community Development

Community, Economic & Human Development Committee Attendance Report

2007

Member (Including Ex-Officio) Last Name, First Name	Representing	X = County Represented								X = Attended				= No Meeting NM = New Member					
		IC	LA	OC	RC	SB	VC	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barnes, Christine*	La Palma			X				X	X	X	X			X	X				
Bayer, Anne	Gateway Cities		X						NM										
Chastain, Kelly	SANBAG					X		X	X		X		X						
Cooper, Gil	Huntington Beach			X				X	X				X						
Daigle, Leslie*	OCCOG			X				X	X										
Dispenza, Mike	Palmdale		X					X	X	X	X								
Dubois, Diane	Gateway Cities		X						NM	X	X								
Edney, Jon* - Chair	El Centro	X						X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Fesmire, Melanie	CVAG				X			X	X		X		X						
Garcia, Joe G.	SGVCOG		X											NM	X				
Jasper, Timothy*	Apple Valley					X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Jeffra, Jim	Lancaster		X											NM					
Lantz, Paula*	Pomona		X					X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Lee, Laura	Gateway Cities		X						NM		X		X	X					
Lovridge, Ronald*	Riverside				X				X	X			X	X	X				
Malsin, D. Scott	Westside Cities COG		X											NM/X	X				
McCallon, Larry* - Vice-Chair	Highland					X		X	X				X	X	X				
McCullough, Kathryn	OCCOG			X				X	X	X	X			X	X				
McSweeney, Susan	Westlake		X						X										
Morehouse, Carl*	Ventura/VCOG						X	X		X	X		X	X					
Mosca, Joseph	SGVCOG		X						NM/X	X	X			X	X				
Norby, Chris*	Orange County			X							X				X				
Nowatka, Paul*	Torrance		X					X	X	X	X		X		X				
Nunez, John H.	SGVCOG		X					X	X	X	X		X		X				
Olhasso, Laura	Arroyo Verdugo		X						X		X			X	X				
Palmer, Jim	OCCOG			X					NM/X										
Perry, Jan*	Los Angeles		X																
Reyes, Ed*	Los Angeles		X																
Ring, Bob	OCCOG			X				X	X		X			X	X				
Robertson, Deborah*	Rialto					X		X	X		X			X	X				
Serrano, Joseph	Gateway Cities		X																
Ten, Mike	SGVCOG		X								X								
Tyler, Sid	SGVCOG		X								X								
White, Charles	WRCOG				X			X	X	X	X			X					

*Regional Council Member